

What a Week!

WHAT DO WE DO
WHEN LIFE GETS
UPENDED?



DO WE HIDE
OURSELVES AWAY?



DO WE GO BACK TO
WHAT WE KNOW?



DO WE START OVER?

CHRIST IS RISEN!



Don't Doubt... Believe!

The story of Thomas, the Twin, is well known by most people, even those outside the Church. When we read the account of Christ's resurrection we realize that all of the disciples expressed doubt of the truth that Jesus was alive again. The Gospel

According to Thomas is an ancient text from the same time period as the Gospels found in the Bible. However, the belief system behind Thomas' gospel is drastically different, known as "Gnosticism." Gnostics believed that everything you can see and touch is evil whereas the "spiritual realm" is good and pure. The gnostic Christian community believed that Jesus was a spirit-being, never human, never physical, only appearing to be human. Jesus did not die, nor rise, because he had no actual

Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." John 20:27

body to be crucified. The Gospel of John's final version seems to combat Thomas' version of events by consistently referencing Jesus' physical being and activities.

"In the beginning was the Word...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." — John 1:1 & 14

"Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them." (Reference to communion.) John 6:56

"Do not hold onto me for I have not yet ascended to my Father." John 20:17

Even the letters of John reference John's concerns that the early Church may adopt Thomas' gnostic view putting forward a test for persons preaching in the midst of the Church's rapid growth. John asks believers to ask preachers to answer one question: "Did Jesus Christ come in the flesh?" 1 John 4:2,3

John's response to Jesus' resurrection eventually moves from doubt to full belief in the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead. For the early Church leaders, Jesus clearly rose physically as well as spiritually. His risen-ness was not simply in the hearts and memories of his disciples. It was much more and the implications were astounding!

What is your understanding of the resurrection of Christ?

How does your understanding impact your belief and perspective on eternal life?

IT'S ALL GOOD...

Jesus never appears to judge any of the disciples (which includes Mary) for their reaction or doubt. Jesus simply addresses their doubts in different ways, the way each of them needs: he builds on the relationship (Mary), addresses their fear (Peter, John, others), and offers proof (Thomas). We need not be ashamed of our belief or non-belief. We simply continue on the journey and allow Christ to move within us.

Who do you relate with most in the story of Jesus' resurrection?

Mary Magdalene?

Peter & John?

Thomas?

Are you likely to share the news of Christ's resurrection, like Mary?

Is life back to normal like the disciples?

Do you need a little more help to believe like Thomas?